

10

LUC-412/Florkey 6-6-14-6-22

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e). Claim 23 was objected to.

Claim Objection

Claim 23 was objected to because of an informality.

Applicants have responded by amending claim 23.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the Office Action states that claim 20 is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As stated on page 15, lines 14-16 of applicants' specification, the apparatus comprise the recordable data storage medium 114 of the application server 108 and the communication devices 102, 103, and 104.

Thus, the invention is directed to statutory subject matter.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e)

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent Application Number 2005/0078612 issued to Lang dated April 14, 2005.

Applicants have avoided this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants' claim 1, as amended, now recites,

"wherein the one or more invitations comprise a photo;"

Lang does not teach this limitation. Applicants agree that Lang discloses that a conference call is set up by an initiating party using the SMS messaging feature, as stated in paragraph 0013. Also, Lang discloses that participants who may wish to participate in a conference call, but do not have SMS capability, may interact with the system using other suitable electronic text messaging means, such as e-mail or by voice using a dial-up IVR unit, as stated in paragraph. In essence, Lang's technique is

11

LUC-412/Florkey 6-6-14-6-22

limited to a choice of text messages or voice responses. However, contrary to applicants' claim 1, Lang does not teach "wherein the one or more invitations comprise a photo". This is because Lang does not disclose that a photo is used as the invitation to join the conference call. Thus, Lang is missing the "photo" element, as recited in applicants' claim 1.

Thus, the clear teaching of Lang is that the one or more invitations do not comprise a photo.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that Lang does not describe each and every element of claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is not anticipated by Lang. Since claims 2-13 and 21-23 depend from allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable over Lang.

Independent claims 14 and 20 each have a limitation similar to that of independent claim 1, which was shown is not taught by Lang. For example, claims 14 and 20 recite, "wherein the one or more invitations comprise a photo". Lang does not teach this limitation for the above-mentioned reasons. Therefore, claims 14 and 20 are likewise allowable over Lang. Since claims 15-19 depend from claim 14, these dependent claims are also allowable over Lang.

Furthermore, applicants assert that Lang does not teach the limitations of applicants' claim 23. Applicants agree that the participant in Lang responds to an IVR when prompted, as stated in paragraph 0164. However, Lang discloses that the participant responds to a recorded voice message, as stated in paragraph 0164. Thus, Lang is missing "an icon, a tone and a light" as an indicator, as recited in applicants' claim 23.

New Claims

Claims 24-25 were added. Claims 24-25 provide additional limitations directed to one or more invitations. No new matter was added.

12

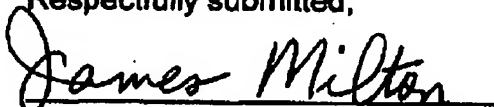
LUC-412/Florkey 6-8-14-8-22

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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